



Department of Justice

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DISASTER FRAUD HOTLINE AVAILABLE
TO REPORT HURRICANE GUSTAV-RELATED FRAUD

Jackson, Miss - In the wake of Hurricane Gustav, United States Attorney Dunn Lampton announced that his office and the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force is prepared to pursue and prosecute fraud cases arising out of this recent natural disaster. "Just as we have done with fraud arising out of Hurricane Katrina, we will vigorously pursue reports of alleged fraudulent activity related to Hurricane Gustav," said Lampton.

Members of the public can report fraud, waste, abuse or allegations of mismanagement involving disaster relief operations through the Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721, the Disaster Fraud Fax at 225-334-4707 or the Disaster Fraud e-mail at disaster@leo.gov. Individuals can also report criminal activity to the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI or www.fbi.gov.

The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force was established in 2005 following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. In anticipation of an unprecedented amount of fraud associated with federal disaster relief programs that went into effect following those devastating natural disasters, a Joint Command Center was established in Baton Rouge, La., to coordinate the huge number of reports of fraud. To date, the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force has brought charges against 898 defendants in 43 judicial districts. The Command Center has received and screened more than 26,000 complaints of disaster fraud and referred more than 17,000 of those to law enforcement for investigation. The Task Force is chaired by the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division.

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